

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

February 24, 2000  
Phoenix Family Advocacy Center  
2120 N. Central Ave., Ste.250  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Tom Ambrose, Phoenix Suns

\*William Arnold, Mayor of Goodyear

\*Tracy Bame, Phelps Dodge Corp.

\*Harriet Barnes, Governor's Division of  
Domestic Violence Prevention

Judge Jean Baxter, Glendale City Court

Peggy Bilsten, Councilmember of Phoenix

Dr. Mary Ellen Bradshaw, Az Public Health  
Assoc.

Karen Ziegler for Mike Branham, Criminal  
Justice Commission

Margaretta Brede Mathis, Fresh Start Womens  
Foundation

Jan Brewer, Maricopa County Supervisor

Monalou Callery, Governor's Division of  
Domestic Violence Prevention

Tom Canasi, City of Tempe

Maggie Cathey, Vice Mayor, Town of Gilbert

Dean Coonrod, Maricopa Integrated Health  
Systems/Medpro

Sandy Cowen Miller, The Cowen Agency

Gene D'Adamo, The Arizona Republic

Sheila Day-Geary, John C. Lincoln Hospital

Pat Dennis, City of Peoria

Myma Pavatea, for David Easchief, Salt River  
Pima Maricopa Indian Community

Judge Susan Ehrlich, AZ Supreme Court of  
Appeals

\*Dr. Paul Eppinger, Arizona Ecumenical Council

\*Mike Evans, Councilmember of Gilbert

Kathleen Ferraro, ASU

Margarita Garcia, Councilmember of Guadalupe

Paulla Garcia, Avondale Social Services

David Goulet, Councilmember of Glendale

Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, Az. Regional Community  
Policing Inst.

Roger Illingworth, Dept. Of Public Safety

\*Vince Imbordino, Maricopa County Attorney's  
Office

Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging

Loren Kirkeide, SRP

\*Sanford Kravitz, Arizona Community  
Foundation

\*Rev. Deborah Lerner, Paradise Valley United  
Methodist

\*Marie Lopez-Rogers, Councilmember of  
Avondale

\*Cynthia Lukas, Councilmember of Scottsdale

\*Preston McMurry, McMurry Publishing

Carolyn McBurney, 3TV/KTVK

Laura Miller, Attorney Generals Office

Stephanie Orr, Center Against Sexual Abuse

\*Paul Oves, Tosco Marketing Company

Rev. Fran Park, NW Valley Community Council

Janice Parker, Save the Family Foundation

\*David Petersen, Arizona State Senate

Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center

Michelle Robson, Robson Communities

Angie Rodgers, Children's Action Alliance

Lawrence Sands D.O., Maricopa Cnty Dept. of  
Public Health

\*Frank Scarpati, East Valley Addiction Council

\*Joan Shafer, Mayor of Surprise  
Marie Sullivan, AZ Womens Education and  
Employment  
Ann Timmer, Attorney At Law  
Lt. Louie Tovar, Domestic Violence Unit,  
Phoenix, P.D.  
Margaret Trujillo, Value Options  
\*Roberta Voss, Arizona House of  
Representatives  
Mary Wambach, AZ Coalition Against Domestic  
Violence  
Kerry G. Wangberg, Law Department/ Criminal  
Division  
\*Phillip Westbrooks, Councilmember of  
Chandler  
\*Christina Wildlake, Arizona Sexual Assault  
Network

*\*Those members neither present nor  
represented by proxy.*

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Mark Armstrong, Maricopa County Superior  
Court  
Jane Conder, DPS  
Yolanda Farmer, City of Tempe Social Services  
Laura Guild, DES  
Melanie Hartman, Thunderbird School of Int'l  
Management  
Shelly Hornback, Center Against Sexual Abuse  
Melanie Pearlman, Thunderbird School of Int'l  
Management  
Chris Parks, Phoenix Police Department  
Kristina Rivera, Az Coalition Against Domestic  
Violence  
Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix  
Carol Kratz, MAG  
Suzanne Quigley, MAG  
Mary Thomson, MAG

#### 1. Call to Order

Councilmember Peggy Bilsten called the meeting called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Councilmember Bilsten introduced Phoenix Family Advocacy Director, Dee Wheeler Cronin who staffed the City of Phoenix Domestic Violence Ad Hoc Committee, and was responsible for implementing the Family Advocacy Center. Also introduced was Commander Don Swanson, head of the Family Investigations Bureau.

Ms. Wheeler summarized the history in developing the Family Advocacy Center. The Center was modeled after Mesa's Victim Assistance Center. Phoenix expanded the social services component, bringing in family partners to assist the victims who come to the Center. Staff from Sojourner Center and CASA are on site at the center. This collaborative effort partners with the types of organizations providing services to victims. Grants were written and secured to bring staff to the center. A Phoenix caseworker comes to the Center twice per week to assist with long term case manager. The Prosecutors, County Attorney and sexual assault medical examiners program is also located on-site. The center is accessible 24-hours per day , allowing victims to be examined on-site rather than going to the hospital for the exam. Orders of Protection can also be immediately obtained via video link to the court.

Commander Swanson, head of the Family Investigations Bureau, located at the Center then briefed the Council. Commander Swanson stated approximately 60 people work here and another 30 are at the Child

Help Center. They began a stress management program last year which provides 2 detectives who focus on repeat offenders in domestic violence; the unit includes a victim advocate. There are approximately 100 people on this repeat offenders' list. Victim advocates assigned assist the victims in the group. These detectives help with evidence for the successful prosecution of the offender. Commander Swanson gave an example of a successful case involving a batterer who was convicted of interstate stalking and who had murdered the father of his previous wife. The Nurse Examiners are also located here which promotes a much friendlier environment. Victims advocates are located at the Center and help the victim through the necessary steps in their situations.

Councilmember Bilsten commented that the Center has been helpful in bringing together needed assistance. She thanked Supervisor Brewer for providing the nurses for the medical examinations which work at the Center.

Before carrying on with the rest of the meeting Councilmember Bilsten announced that since our last Council meeting, there were 3 domestic violence related murders in Maricopa County.

2. Approval of January 27, 2000 Meeting Minutes

Gene D'Adamo moved to approve and Connie Phillips seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2000 Kick-off meeting of the MAG Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

3. Mission Statement and Goals and Objectives

Connie Phillips reported on the draft mission statement, and goals and objectives. The Mission Statement reads as follows: **The MAG Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Services As the Primary Regional Coordinating Body and Provides a Forum for Communication and Action to Effectively Address, Prevent and Eradicate Domestic Violence.** Ms. Phillips highlighted some important elements of the draft Mission. One is that the Council serves to be the primary coordinating body to bring together information from the various domestic violence groups around the County. The Council is also a forum for communication and action pointing out that people on the Council have the power to make things happen and should be a key role for the Council.

Ms. Phillips then reviewed the goals created by the subcommittee. The goals read as follows: 1) Provide a Regional Forum for all Facets of the Community to come together for Effective Action. 2) Prevention of Domestic Violence Through Modifying Attitudes. 3) Promote Victim Safety and Self Determination. 4) Effective Consequences and Accountability for Abusers.

Michelle Robson suggested putting Maricopa County into the verbiage. One member of the ad hoc subcommittee pointed out that MAG is mentioned in the mission statement and is also representative of Maricopa County.

Mary Jane Bradshaw suggested that we include data collection which was part of the original plan.. She also inquired into whether we should do more than modify attitudes.

Roger Illingsworth responded that the data collection would be more included in the actions to be taken.

Jean Baxter suggested consistency in the verbiage to read as follows: 1) Provide a Regional Forum for all Facets of the Community to come together for Effective Action. 2) Prevent Domestic Violence Through Modifying Attitudes. 3) Promote Victim Safety and Self Determination. 4) Promote Effective Consequences and Accountability for Abusers.

Mary Wambaugh suggested adding a statement including all residents of the region in order to be inclusive. Connie Phillips suggested that this was an objective. Tom Canasi suggested that it is in the plan a number of times. He pointed out that it may be included partially in the first goal regarding all facets of the community and is addressed more in the action steps in the plan.

Sandy Cowen Miller asked about modifying attitudes, wondering if it included all forms of education. Connie Phillips affirmed that it did include all forms of education and community education. She indicated that the primary goal is to get the message out any way we can that Domestic Violence is unacceptable.

Mary Lynn Kasunic suggested that as a guiding principal we work to eradicate abuse on the whole - taking on all types of family violence, from child abuse to adults including elderly abuse, as well as people with disabilities, and to also address issues related to ethnic minorities.

Chairman Bilsten asked that the subcommittee reconvene and modify the language if council members felt it was needed. There was a motion that the subcommittee reconvene as needed. Loren Kirkeide suggested adding a statement that we want to promote effective policies and programs to effectively address domestic violence. There was agreement that the statement be added to the goals. The motion passed. There was agreement that the statement be added to the goals. The motion passed. The Goals now read as follows 1) Provide a Regional Forum for all Facets of the Community to come together for Effective Action. 2) Prevent Domestic Violence Through Modifying Attitudes. 3) Promote Victim Safety and Self Determination. 4) Promote Effective Consequences and Accountability for Abusers 5) Promote Effective Policies and Programs to Effectively Address Domestic Violence.

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

Tom Canasi reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Council and its working groups to implement the regional Domestic Violence Plan. He stressed that are ready to go beyond the planing stages and take action on implementation.

##### Roles:

First: To promote valley wide coordinated response to domestic violence - Mr. Canasi added the intention is to bring together all organizations dealing with domestic violence and approach this issue regionally. There are some efforts that have been in existence for many years, while others are fairly new. We want to benefit from those efforts and build on them as much as possible.

Second: Provide policy direction and oversight for the plan implementation.

Third: Convene action teams to develop implementation strategies.

Fourth: Review implementation strategies and remove roadblocks. Mr. Canasi pointed out that the council has a large pool of talent and clout to draw on to influence the system and move it forward. He also stated that large systems do not respond quickly to change and may need encouragement. As the Action Teams move forward, we want to emphasize the Council's role to remove roadblocks.

Fifth: Incorporate activities of other regional/local task forces, coalitions or committees on domestic violence.

Sixth: Provide periodic updates to the MAG regional Council.

Seventh: Evaluate the effectiveness over the long term. Mr. Canasi noted that while this plan is not a quick fix we will be action oriented.

#### Organizational structure:

Tom Canasi presented the organization structure noting that we will bring back the action teams in prevention, crisis/transitional and systems coordination and long-term response that were created in the planning phase. Many of the 150 people who participated in the plan development also wish to participate in the developing of implementation strategies. Mr. Canasi emphasized the need to be inclusive and to welcome new individuals to the process. He also emphasized the need for DV Council members to sign up for these committees.. The Action Teams would work toward developing implementation strategies to bring back to the Council for approval.

Mr. Canasi also introduced the ad hoc solutions committee in the event that there are some action plans that will require more discussion about how to move the recommendation forward. These ad hoc committees would benefit from the expertise on the council related to that issue. Multiple ad hoc committees could occur at one time.

The organization chart does not reflect all of the activities which will take place under each of the four working groups. There will be many different boxes related to whichever strategy is being worked on. Chairman Bilsten requested to see our progress in this format as we begin to accomplish more.

Kathleen Ferraro asked about evaluation. Tom Canasi mentioned that it may occur at a program level or in other areas, such as the Maricopa County protocol. A table showing the status report in the packets will show a running tab of where we are and what we need to focus on. Staff has sent out surveys regarding the status of the recommendations, and we will continue that effort. Suzanne Quigley also noted that the systems section of the plan includes specific evaluation recommendations.

Councilmember Garcia asked if there is a place for young adults or those professional in schools involved in service delivery to young people. She inquired into whether MAG is only concerned with non-youth issues. She stressed the need to include and involve youth in the action process. Chairman Bilsten suggested that we include these groups in the prevention areas and noted that we are open to having young people in this activity. CASA was suggested as a possible link to bring young people in the Council. Stephanie Orr indicated that graduates of a CASA school program could be included. Mary Wambaugh suggested that we look at policies involving kids and our ability to help them. A motion was made by Marie Sullivan and seconded by Roger Illingworth to approve the roles and organization structure.

#### 5. Action Teams

Prevention and early intervention rec 1-13, crisis intervention 14-27, system coordination 28-34 and long term 35-41.

The Teams will begin by prioritizing the recommendations -taking into account the most feasible, and what

is most effective, etc. Mr. Canasi discussed how the Action Teams will develop SAFR - Strategies, Action Steps, Funding and Roadblocks. He also indicated that action steps and time lines will also be developed to guide our progress. Action Teams will then determine funding and roadblocks. Completed implementation strategies will come back to the Council for review with recommended Council action at the May 18 meeting. The Council will then determine the actions needed to happen to move the issues forward, and will bring non-resolvable items to the Ad Hoc Solution Committees.

Mr. Canasi provided an example of the Action Team Report. The strategy and action steps would be listed, funding resource needs, and roadblocks to implementation are identified. Options for council consideration will be included. The action teams will meet 4-5 times to develop implementation strategies. The end result will be to have some action plans on the table. At that point, the Council will vote on which action plans to move forward on.

Sandy Cowen Miller made an inquiry about roles of the Action Teams. Verbally we mentioned that we would have measurable goals. She asked that the verbiage for an evaluation process be included by possibly adding "E" to SAFR !!! The Council agreed that this component should be included.

Kathleen Ferraro stated that we need an action team looking at the domestic relations component. The domestic relations piece of the puzzle should be included so that the domestic violence and domestic relations pieces are coordinated. Councilmember Bilsten mentioned that this plan is only the tip of the iceberg and we understand that it is not inclusive but a beginning from which to build upon. Ms. Ferraro noted that this would probably emerge as roadblock eventually down the road.

A motion to approve the action teams roles was made by Dean Coonrod and Lauren Kirkeide seconded the motion.

## 6. Current Work Underway

Mary Thomson reviewed the chart on implementation strategies in the packet. She noted that this piece will be included in the packets in future meeting to note our progress.

In the packet was a second chart reviewing activities underway around prevention messages for faith-based organizations. Chairman Bilsten noted that a study indicated that a number of women go to church and feel safe disclosing to clergy about domestic violence. Therefore its important to educate the clergy and give them safety plans for their rest rooms. While this is a beginning effort it addresses an important component of faith based networks in this issue. Ms. Thomson requested the Council's approval to proceed with this effort.

Mary Thomson also discussed the workplace collaboration and the development of a workplace kit to assist victims. Since the last meeting we convened a group of H.R. professional to provide feedback on how to make the kit more useful. We will be revising the workplace packet to reflect the feedback. At the same time the Governor's Office has also have applied for the Corporate Citizenship Initiative Grant which will provide \$85,000 in technical assistance training to establish and implement protocols in the workplace.

Chairman Bilsten asked about the timeline for when the kit will be completed. Ms Thomson indicated that we are working toward completion by April, around the same time when the CCI award will be announced.

Ms. Thomson review activities from a children and DV work group that MAG has taken over from a collaborative that was begun by the City of Phoenix. The group is discussing piloting a project in two Phoenix area elementary schools. The group will conduct a training on March 31<sup>st</sup> for half day to begin linking already existing services in 2 local area elementary schools and begin to address children affected by domestic violence at home.

Chairman Bilsten asked Ms. Miller to discuss her survey and its findings on the impact on children. Ms. Miller pointed out that there were zero responses to the inquiry as to whether the children who witnessed the domestic violence were receiving counseling afterward. She stated that research has shown how exposure to such incidents in childhood impacts brain development and may start them off into a cycle of violence throughout their lives.

Ms. Miller inquired into who is developing the protocol that will be in the school and whether they were PhD.'s or school counselors? Ms. Phillips responded that the group is going to bring together the current curriculums that already exist. The group has decided they want to focus more on protocols - those actions that schools take to deal with this issue. Ms. Phillips stated that there are a few research based curriculums to start from but we have not made that decision yet. If you have any suggestions for our workgroup, please let us know.

Ms. Wambach stated that is extremely important to know that the mother may doing all she can do and wanted to avoid policies that don't punish the mother if she is not getting the child into counseling.

Ms. Orr also agreed and has heard that there are some negative repercussions by the abuser from children receiving counseling. She gave an example where one abuser punished the child for every hour of counseling he had to undergo. Ms. Mathis discussed good parenting skills is key.

Ms. Garcia asked if there is anybody doing anything for institutionalized kids. Chairman Bilsten informed the Committee that Recommendation #12 addresses counseling and training for adults and children who are incarcerated. Ms. Trujillo suggested Dave Gaspar - ADJC be invited to speak at the Council.

Gene D'Adamo motioned and Sandy Cowen Miller approved the motion to accept the report and that the groups proceed on the course they are going.

#### 7. Revised Meeting Schedule

Mary Thomson noted the revised meeting schedule noting that we added a meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> - to have the Action Teams come and report their implementation plans.

The Council approved a motion to approve the addition of an extra meeting.

#### 8. Sarah Buel Event

Chairman Bilsten discussed the Sarah Buel training for the next Council Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Chairman

Bilsten encouraged everyone to please attend. She is very inspiring and well-informed about best practices of regional councils around the nation.

Chairman Bilsten informed the Council that we have Sarah for the whole day and asked for suggestions on other ways to utilize Sarah. She requested that any suggestions be directed to MAG staff.

Ms. Wambach requested MAG and the Council to arrange a meeting with our legislators. Chairman Bilsten agreed that was an excellent suggestion.

9. Call to the Public

No members of the public wished to address the committee.

10. Announcements

Councilmember Garcia noted that Guadalupe does not deny that we have a problem in our community, there are a lot of caring community and a lot of good projects happening. This problem takes its toll on the families.

Chairman Bilsten suggested that we begin to build relationships with the media to counter some of the negative stories about this problem and families dealing with such issues.

11. Adjourn

Chairman Bilsten adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.